## House Study Bill 145 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS BILL)

## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the regulation of health care facilities,
- 2 elder group homes, assisted living programs, and adult day
- 3 services programs.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 1 Section 1. Section 135C.10, subsection 9, Code 2015, is 2 amended to read as follows:
- 3 9. In the case of an application by an existing licensee
- 4 for a new or newly acquired facility, continuing or repeated
- 5 failure of the licensee to operate any previously licensed
- 6 facility or facilities in compliance with the provisions of
- 7 this chapter, the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, or
- 8 equivalent provisions that the facility is subject to in this
- 9 state or any other state.
- 10 Sec. 2. Section 135C.19, Code 2015, is amended to read as 11 follows:
- 12 135C.19 Public disclosure Disclosure of inspection findings
- 13 posting of citations.
- 14 l. Following an inspection of a health care facility by
- 15 the department pursuant to this chapter, the department's
- 16 final findings with respect to compliance by the facility
- 17 with requirements for licensing shall be made available to
- 18 the public in a readily available form and place. Other
- 19 information relating to a health care facility obtained by the
- 20 department which does not constitute the department's findings
- 21 from an inspection of the facility shall not be made available
- 22 to the public or to the health care facility except in formal
- 23 administrative proceedings pursuant to chapter 17A involving
- 24 the citation of a facility for a violation under section
- 25 135C.40, or the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license
- 26 under this chapter. The name of a person who files a complaint
- 27 with the department shall be confidential.
- 28 2. a. A citation for a class I or class II violation
- 29 which is issued to a health care facility and which has become
- 30 final, or a copy of the citation, shall be prominently posted
- 31 as prescribed in rules, until the violation is corrected to
- 32 the department's satisfaction. The citation or copy shall
- 33 be posted in a place in plain view of the residents of the
- 34 facility cited, persons visiting the residents, and persons
- 35 inquiring about placement in the facility.

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- 1 b. A copy of each citation required to be posted by this
- 2 subsection shall be sent by the department to the department
- 3 of human services, to the designated protection and advocacy
- 4 agency if the facility has one or more residents with
- 5 developmental disabilities or mental illness, and to the office
- 6 of long-term care ombudsman if the facility is a nursing
- 7 facility or residential care facility.
- If the facility cited subsequently advises the
- 9 department of human services that the violation has been
- 10 corrected to the satisfaction of the department of inspections
- 11 and appeals, the department of human services shall maintain
- 12 this advisory in the same file with the copy of the citation.
- 13 The department of human services shall not disseminate to
- 14 the public any information regarding citations issued by the
- 15 department of inspections and appeals, but shall forward or
- 16 refer inquiries to the department of inspections and appeals.
- 17 Sec. 3. Section 135C.36, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
- 18 to read as follows:
- 19 4. Any state penalty, including a fine or citation, issued
- 20 as a result of the federal survey and certification process
- 21 following a state licensure and federal certification survey or
- 22 investigation shall be dismissed if the corresponding federal
- 23 deficiency or citation is dismissed or removed. Any state
- 24 penalty, including a fine or citation, shall be retained or
- 25 reinstated if the federal deficiency is retained or reinstated.
- Sec. 4. Section 135C.41, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended
- 27 to read as follows:
- 28 2. If the facility desires to contest the citation, notify
- 29 the director that the facility desires to contest the citation
- 30 and request do either of the following:
- 31 a. Request an informal conference with an independent
- 32 reviewer pursuant to section 135C.42. Upon the conclusion of
- 33 an informal conference, in the case of an affirmed or modified
- 34 citation, the facility may request a contested case hearing
- 35 in writing within five days after receipt of the written

- 1 explanation of the independent reviewer.
- 2 b. Request a contested case hearing in the manner provided
- 3 by chapter 17A for contested cases. The formal hearing shall
- 4 be conducted in accordance with chapter 17A and rules adopted
- 5 by the department.
- 6 Sec. 5. Section 135C.42, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended
- 7 to read as follows:
- 8 l. The director shall provide an independent reviewer
- 9 to hold an informal conference with the facility within ten
- 10 working days after receipt of a request made under section
- 11 135C.41, subsection 2, paragraph "a". At the conclusion of the
- 12 conference the independent reviewer may affirm or may modify or
- 13 dismiss the citation. The independent reviewer shall state in
- 14 writing the specific reasons for the affirmation, modification,
- 15 or dismissal and immediately transmit copies of the statement
- 16 to the director, and to the facility. If the facility does not
- 17 desire to further contest an affirmed or modified citation, it
- 18 shall comply with section 135C.41, subsection 1, within five
- 19 working days after the informal conference, or after receipt
- 20 of the written explanation of the independent reviewer, as the
- 21 case may be, comply with section 135C.41, subsection 1.
- 22 Sec. 6. Section 135C.42, Code 2015, is amended by adding the
- 23 following new subsection:
- NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The following provisions shall apply to
- 25 an informal conference:
- 26 a. Legal counsel shall not be permitted.
- 27 b. The health care facility shall not have access to
- 28 department documents other than the department's final findings
- 29 issued to the health care facility.
- 30 c. Testimony from witnesses employed outside of the health
- 31 care facility, the entity that owns the facility, or the
- 32 department shall not be permitted.
- 33 Sec. 7. Section 135C.43, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 34 follows:
- 35 135C.43 Formal contest judicial Judicial review.

- 1 1. A facility that desires to further contest an affirmed
- 2 or modified citation for a class I, class II, or class III
- 3 violation may do so in the manner provided by chapter 17A
- 4 for contested cases. Notice of intent to formally contest a
- 5 citation shall be given the department in writing within five
- 6 days after the informal conference or after receipt of the
- 7 written explanation of the independent reviewer provided to
- 8 hold the informal conference, whichever is applicable, in the
- 9 case of an affirmed or modified citation. A facility which has
- 10 exhausted all adequate administrative remedies and is aggrieved
- 11 by the final action of the department may petition for judicial
- 12 review in the manner provided by chapter 17A.
- 2. Hearings on petitions for judicial review brought under
- 14 this section shall be set for trial at the earliest possible
- 15 date and shall take precedence on the court calendar over
- 16 all other cases except matters to which equal or superior
- 17 precedence is specifically granted by law. The times for
- 18 pleadings and for hearings in such actions shall be set by the
- 19 judge of the court with the object of securing a decision in
- 20 the matter at the earliest possible time.
- 21 Sec. 8. Section 135C.43A, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 22 follows:
- 23 135C.43A Reduction of penalty amount.
- 24 If a facility has been assessed a penalty, does not request a
- 25 formal hearing pursuant to section 135C.41, subsection
- 26 2, paragraph "b", or withdraws its request for a formal hearing
- 27 within thirty days of the date that the penalty was assessed,
- 28 and the penalty is paid within thirty days of the receipt of
- 29 notice or service, the amount of the penalty shall be reduced
- 30 by thirty-five percent. The citation which includes the civil
- 31 penalty shall include a statement to this effect.
- 32 Sec. 9. Section 231B.9, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 33 follows:
- 34 231B.9 Public disclosure Disclosure of findings.
- 35 Upon completion of a monitoring evaluation or complaint

- 1 investigation of an elder group home by the department pursuant
- 2 to this chapter, the department's final findings with respect
- 3 to compliance by the elder group home with requirements for
- 4 certification shall be made available to the public in a
- 5 readily available form and place. Other information relating
- 6 to an elder group home that is obtained by the department which
- 7 does not constitute the department's final findings from a
- 8 monitoring evaluation or complaint investigation of the elder
- 9 group home shall not be made available to the public or to the
- 10 elder group home except in formal administrative proceedings
- 11 pursuant to chapter 17A involving the assessment of a civil
- 12 penalty pursuant to section 231B.14 or the denial, suspension,
- 13 or revocation of a certificate under this chapter.
- 14 Sec. 10. Section 231B.9A, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 15 follows:
- 16 231B.9A Informal conference formal contest judicial
- 17 review.
- 18 1. Within twenty business days after issuance of the final
- 19 findings, the elder group home shall notify the director if the
- 20 home desires to contest the findings and request do either of
- 21 the following:
- 22 a. Request an informal conference with an independent
- 23 reviewer pursuant to subsection 2. Upon the conclusion of an
- 24 informal conference, if the elder group home desires to further
- 25 contest an affirmed or modified regulatory insufficiency,
- 26 it may do so by giving notice of intent to formally contest
- 27 the regulatory insufficiency, in writing, to the department
- 28 within five days after receipt of the written decision of the
- 29 independent reviewer.
- 30 b. Request a contested case hearing in the manner provided
- 31 by chapter 17A for contested cases. The formal hearing shall
- 32 be conducted in accordance with chapter 17A and rules adopted
- 33 by the department.
- 2. a. The department shall provide an independent reviewer
- 35 to hold an informal conference with an elder group home within

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- 1 ten working days after receiving a request from the home
- 2 pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph "a". At the conclusion of
- 3 the informal conference, the independent reviewer may affirm,
- 4 modify, or dismiss a contested regulatory insufficiency. The
- 5 independent reviewer shall state in writing the specific
- 6 reasons for the affirmation, modification, or dismissal and
- 7 immediately transmit copies of the statement to the department
- 8 and to the home.
- 9 3. b. An independent reviewer shall be licensed as an
- 10 attorney in the state of Iowa and shall not be employed or have
- 11 been employed by the department in the past eight years or have
- 12 appeared in front of the department on behalf of an elder group
- 13 home in the past eight years. Preference shall be given to an
- 14 attorney with background knowledge, experience, or training
- 15 in long-term care. The department may issue a request for
- 16 proposals to enter into a contract for the purpose of providing
- 17 one or more independent reviewers for informal conferences.
- 18 c. The following provisions shall apply to an informal
- 19 conference:
- 20 (1) Legal counsel shall not be permitted.
- 21 (2) The elder group home shall not have access to department
- 22 documents other than the department's final findings issued to
- 23 the elder group home.
- 24 (3) Testimony from witnesses employed outside of the elder
- 25 group home, the corporation that owns the elder group home, or
- 26 the department shall not be permitted.
- 27 4. An elder group home that desires to further contest an
- 28 affirmed or modified regulatory insufficiency may do so in the
- 29 manner provided by chapter 17A for contested cases. The home
- 30 shall give notice of intent to formally contest a regulatory
- 31 insufficiency, in writing, to the department within five days
- 32 after receipt of the written decision of the independent
- 33 reviewer. The formal hearing shall be conducted in accordance
- 34 with chapter 17A and rules adopted by the department.
- 35 5. 3. An elder group home that has exhausted all adequate

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- 1 administrative remedies and is aggrieved by the final action of
- 2 the department may petition for judicial review in the manner
- 3 provided by chapter 17A.
- 4 Sec. 11. Section 231B.10, subsection 1, paragraphs f and i,
- 5 Code 2015, are amended to read as follows:
- 6 f. Founded dependent adult abuse as defined in section
- 7 <del>235B.2</del> 235E.1.
- In the case of an application by an existing certificate
- 9 holder for a new or newly acquired elder group home, continuing
- 10 or repeated failure of the certificate holder to operate any
- 11 previously certified elder group home or homes in compliance
- 12 with the provisions of this chapter, the rules adopted pursuant
- 13 to this chapter, or equivalent provisions that the elder group
- 14 home is subject to in this state or any other state.
- 15 Sec. 12. Section 231C.9, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 16 follows:
- 17 231C.9 Public disclosure Disclosure of findings.
- 18 Upon completion of a monitoring evaluation or complaint
- 19 investigation of an assisted living program by the department
- 20 pursuant to this chapter, the department's final findings
- 21 with respect to compliance by the assisted living program
- 22 with requirements for certification shall be made available
- 23 to the public in a readily available form and place. Other
- 24 information relating to an assisted living program that is
- 25 obtained by the department which does not constitute the
- 26 department's final findings from a monitoring evaluation or
- 27 complaint investigation of the assisted living program shall
- 28 not be made available to the public or to the assisted living
- 29 program except in formal administrative proceedings pursuant
- 30 to chapter 17A involving the assessment of a civil penalty
- 31 pursuant to section 231C.14 or the denial, suspension, or
- 32 revocation of a certificate under this chapter.
- 33 Sec. 13. Section 231C.9A, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 34 follows:
- 35 231C.9A Informal conference formal contest judicial

## 1 review.

- 2 l. Within twenty business days after issuance of the final
- 3 findings, the assisted living program shall notify the director
- 4 if the program desires to contest the findings and request do
- 5 either of the following:
- 6 a. Request an informal conference with an independent
- 7 reviewer pursuant to subsection 2. Upon the conclusion
- 8 of an informal conference, if the assisted living program
- 9 desires to further contest an affirmed or modified regulatory
- 10 insufficiency, it may do so by giving notice of intent to
- 11 formally contest the regulatory insufficiency, in writing, to
- 12 the department within five days after receipt of the written
- 13 decision of the independent reviewer.
- 14 b. Request a contested case hearing in the manner provided
- 15 by chapter 17A for contested cases. The formal hearing shall
- 16 be conducted in accordance with chapter 17A and rules adopted
- 17 by the department.
- 18 2. a. The department shall provide an independent reviewer
- 19 to hold an informal conference with an assisted living
- 20 program within ten working days after receiving a request
- 21 from the program pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph "a". At
- 22 the conclusion of the informal conference, the independent
- 23 reviewer may affirm, modify, or dismiss a contested regulatory
- 24 insufficiency. The independent reviewer shall state in writing
- 25 the specific reasons for the affirmation, modification, or
- 26 dismissal and immediately transmit copies of the statement to
- 27 the department and to the program.
- 28 3. b. An independent reviewer shall be licensed as an
- 29 attorney in the state of Iowa and shall not be employed or have
- 30 been employed by the department in the past eight years or have
- 31 appeared in front of the department on behalf of an assisted
- 32 living program in the past eight years. Preference shall be
- 33 given to an attorney with background knowledge, experience,
- 34 or training in long-term care. The department may issue a
- 35 request for proposals to enter into a contract for the purpose

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1 of providing one or more independent reviewers for informal

- 2 conferences.
- 3 c. The following provisions shall apply to an informal
- 4 conference:
- 5 (1) Legal counsel shall not be permitted.
- 6 (2) The assisted living program shall not have access to
- 7 department documents other than the department's final findings
- 8 issued to the assisted living program.
- 9 (3) Testimony from witnesses employed outside of the
- 10 assisted living program, the corporation that owns the assisted
- 11 living program, or the department shall not be permitted.
- 12 4. An assisted living program that desires to further
- 13 contest an affirmed or modified regulatory insufficiency may do
- 14 so in the manner provided by chapter 17A for contested cases.
- 15 The program shall give notice of intent to formally contest
- 16 a regulatory insufficiency, in writing, to the department
- 17 within five days after receipt of the written decision of the
- 18 independent reviewer. The formal hearing shall be conducted
- 19 in accordance with chapter 17A and rules adopted by the
- 20 department.
- 21 5. 3. An assisted living program that has exhausted all
- 22 adequate administrative remedies and is aggrieved by the final
- 23 action of the department may petition for judicial review in
- 24 the manner provided by chapter 17A.
- 25 Sec. 14. Section 231C.10, subsection 1, paragraph i, Code
- 26 2015, is amended to read as follows:
- 27 i. In the case of an application by an existing certificate
- 28 holder for a new or newly acquired assisted living program,
- 29 continuing or repeated failure of the certificate holder to
- 30 operate any previously certified assisted living program or
- 31 programs in compliance with the provisions of this chapter,
- 32 the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, or equivalent
- 33 provisions that the assisted living program is subject to in
- 34 this state or any other state.
- 35 Sec. 15. Section 231D.5, subsection 1, paragraphs g and k,

- 1 Code 2015, are amended to read as follows:
- 2 q. Founded dependent adult abuse as defined in section
- 3 <del>235B.2</del> 235E.1.
- 4 k. In the case of an application by an existing certificate
- 5 holder for a new or newly acquired adult day services program,
- 6 continuing or repeated failure of the certificate holder to
- 7 operate any previously certified adult day services program or
- 8 programs in compliance with the provisions of this chapter,
- 9 the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, or equivalent
- 10 provisions that the adult day services program is subject to in
- 11 this state or any other state.
- 12 Sec. 16. Section 231D.10, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 13 follows:
- 231D.10 Public disclosure Disclosure of findings.
- 15 Upon completion of a monitoring evaluation or complaint
- 16 investigation of an adult day services program by the
- 17 department pursuant to this chapter, the department's final
- 18 findings with respect to compliance by the adult day services
- 19 program with requirements for certification shall be made
- 20 available to the public in a readily available form and place.
- 21 Other information relating to an adult day services program
- 22 that is obtained by the department which does not constitute
- 23 the department's final findings from a monitoring evaluation
- 24 or complaint investigation of the adult day services program
- 25 shall not be made available to the public or to the adult day
- 26 services program except in formal administrative proceedings
- 27 pursuant to chapter 17A involving the assessment of a civil
- 28 penalty pursuant to section 231D.11 or the denial, suspension,
- 29 or revocation of a certificate under this chapter.
- 30 Sec. 17. Section 231D.10A, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 31 follows:
- 32 231D.10A Informal conference formal contest judicial
- 33 review.
- 34 1. Within twenty business days after issuance of the final
- 35 findings, the adult day services program shall notify the

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- 1 director if the program desires to contest the findings and
- 2 request do either of the following:
- 3 a. Request an informal conference with an independent
- 4 reviewer pursuant to subsection 2. Upon the conclusion of
- 5 an informal conference, if the adult day services program
- 6 desires to further contest an affirmed or modified regulatory
- 7 insufficiency, it may do so by giving notice of intent to
- 8 formally contest the regulatory insufficiency, in writing, to
- 9 the department within five days after receipt of the written
- 10 decision of the independent reviewer.
- 11 b. Request a contested case hearing in the manner provided
- 12 by chapter 17A for contested cases. The formal hearing shall
- 13 be conducted in accordance with chapter 17A and rules adopted
- 14 by the department.
- 15 2. a. The department shall provide an independent reviewer
- 16 to hold an informal conference with an adult day services
- 17 program within ten working days after receiving a request
- 18 from the program pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph "a". At
- 19 the conclusion of the informal conference, the independent
- 20 reviewer may affirm, modify, or dismiss a contested regulatory
- 21 insufficiency. The independent reviewer shall state in writing
- 22 the specific reasons for the affirmation, modification, or
- 23 dismissal and immediately transmit copies of the statement to
- 24 the department and to the program.
- 25 3. b. An independent reviewer shall be licensed as an
- 26 attorney in the state of Iowa and shall not be employed or have
- 27 been employed by the department in the past eight years or have
- 28 appeared in front of the department on behalf of an adult day
- 29 services program in the past eight years. Preference shall be
- 30 given to an attorney with background knowledge, experience,
- 31 or training in long-term care. The department may issue a
- 32 request for proposals to enter into a contract for the purpose
- 33 of providing one or more independent reviewers for informal
- 34 conferences.
- 35 c. The following provisions shall apply to an informal

## 1 conference:

- 2 (1) Legal counsel shall not be permitted.
- 3 (2) The adult day services program shall not have access to
- 4 department documents other than the department's final findings
- 5 issued to the adult day services program.
- 6 (3) Testimony from witnesses employed outside of the adult
- 7 day services program, the corporation that owns the adult day
- 8 services program, or the department shall not be permitted.
- 9 4. An adult day services program that desires to further
- 10 contest an affirmed or modified regulatory insufficiency may do
- 11 so in the manner provided by chapter 17A for contested cases.
- 12 The program shall give notice of intent to formally contest
- 13 a regulatory insufficiency, in writing, to the department
- 14 within five days after receipt of the written decision of the
- 15 independent reviewer. The formal hearing shall be conducted
- 16 in accordance with chapter 17A and rules adopted by the
- 17 department.
- 18 5. 3. An adult day services program that has exhausted all
- 19 adequate administrative remedies and is aggrieved by the final
- 20 action of the department may petition for judicial review in
- 21 the manner provided by chapter 17A.
- Sec. 18. Section 235E.2, subsection 6, paragraph d, Code
- 23 2015, is amended to read as follows:
- 24 d. In every case involving dependent adult abuse which is
- 25 substantiated by the department and which results in a judicial
- 26 proceeding on behalf of the dependent adult, legal counsel
- 27 shall be appointed by the court to represent the dependent
- 28 adult in the proceedings. The court may also appoint a
- 29 guardian ad litem to represent the dependent adult if necessary
- 30 to protect the dependent adult's best interests. The same
- 31 attorney may shall not be appointed to serve both as legal
- 32 counsel and as quardian ad litem. Before legal counsel or a
- 33 guardian ad litem is appointed pursuant to this paragraph, the
- 34 court shall require the dependent adult and any person legally
- 35 responsible for the support of the dependent adult to complete

1 under oath a detailed financial statement. If, on the basis of

- 2 that financial statement, the court deems that the dependent
- 3 adult or the legally responsible person is able to bear all
- 4 or a portion of the cost of the legal counsel or guardian ad
- 5 litem, the court shall so order. In cases where the dependent
- 6 adult or the legally responsible person is unable to bear the
- 7 cost of the legal counsel or guardian ad litem, the expense
- 8 shall be paid by the county.
- 9 EXPLANATION
- The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 12 This bill relates to the regulation of health care
- 13 facilities, elder group homes, assisted living programs, and
- 14 adult day services programs by the department of inspections
- 15 and appeals.
- 16 LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE HOLDER APPLICATIONS. The bill
- 17 provides that applications for a license or certificate for a
- 18 new or newly acquired health care facility, elder group home,
- 19 assisted living program, or adult day services program may be
- 20 denied to any applicant for continuing or repeated failure
- 21 to operate in compliance with applicable law and not just to
- 22 existing licensees or certificate holders.
- 23 DISCLOSURE OF FINDINGS. The bill provides that information
- 24 relating to a health care facility, an elder group home, an
- 25 assisted living program, or an adult day services program
- 26 obtained by the department which does not constitute
- 27 the department's findings from an inspection, monitoring
- 28 evaluation, or complaint investigation of the facility, home,
- 29 or program shall not be made available to the facility, home,
- 30 or program except pursuant to formal administrative proceedings
- 31 involving the citation of a facility or the denial, suspension,
- 32 or revocation of a facility, home, or program license or
- 33 certificate.
- 34 HEALTH CARE FACILITY VIOLATIONS. The bill provides that
- 35 any state penalty, including a fine or citation, issued as a

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- 1 result of a state licensure and federal certification survey or
- 2 investigation shall be dismissed if the corresponding federal
- 3 deficiency is dismissed or removed. The bill specifies that
- 4 any state penalty, including a fine or citation, shall be
- 5 retained or reinstated if a federal deficiency is retained or
- 6 reinstated.
- 7 CONTESTING REGULATORY INSUFFICIENCIES. The bill provides
- 8 that if a health care facility, elder group home, assisted
- 9 living program, or adult day services program desires to
- 10 contest a regulatory insufficiency, the health care facility,
- 11 elder group home, assisted living program, or adult day
- 12 services program may either request an informal conference with
- 13 an independent reviewer or request a contested case hearing in
- 14 the manner provided by Code chapter 17A for contested cases.
- 15 Upon the conclusion of an informal conference, if the facility,
- 16 home, or program desires to further contest an affirmed or
- 17 modified regulatory insufficiency, it may do so in the manner
- 18 provided in Code chapter 17A. The bill provides that if the
- 19 facility, home, or program does not desire to further contest
- 20 an affirmed or modified citation after an informal conference,
- 21 the facility, home, or program shall remit the appropriate
- 22 penalties or correct the violation within five working days
- 23 after receipt of the written explanation of the independent
- 24 reviewer. A facility, home, or program that has exhausted all
- 25 adequate administrative remedies may petition for judicial
- 26 review pursuant to Code chapter 17A.
- 27 INFORMAL CONFERENCES. The bill specifies informal
- 28 conference guidelines for health care facilities, elder
- 29 group homes, assisted living programs, and adult day services
- 30 programs contesting regulatory insufficiencies. Legal counsel
- 31 is not allowed; the facility, home, or program shall not have
- 32 access to department documents other than the department's
- 33 final findings issued to the facility, home, or program; and
- 34 testimony from certain witnesses is not allowed.
- 35 DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE IN FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS. The bill

- 1 specifies that an attorney cannot be both legal counsel and a
- 2 guardian ad litem representing a dependent adult in a dependent
- 3 adult abuse case.
- 4 The bill amends a Code reference relating to dependent
- 5 adult abuse that occurs in elder group homes and adult day
- 6 services programs to refer to the definition of dependent adult
- 7 abuse that occurs in facilities and programs rather than the
- 8 definition of elder abuse that occurs outside facilities and
- 9 programs.